

# Welcome to First Grade



Hello, and welcome to EDUPRIZE! My name is Kayla Cortez, and I am excited to be your child's first-grade teacher. This will be my third year at EDUPRIZE! I look forward to having your child in my first grade Full Day class.



This will be my 6<sup>th</sup> year teaching. I previously taught kindergarten and moved to first grade three years ago. I am so excited to begin this new year with you. I earned a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from Northern Arizona University in 2018. I am originally from Willowick, Ohio but have lived in Arizona for the last 11 years. Last year, I got married to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher, Mr. Cortez. We had a Christmas-themed wedding! We love playing nerdy card games like Star Wars Unlimited and Lorcana.

Your child will be exploring four different thematic units this year. At EDUPRIZE, we call these units "cottages." Each cottage is full of hands-on learning experiences. The first grade cottages are: Wavelength Arcade, Plymouth Plantation, Resource Resort, and Birdhouse.

**Open House is planned for Thursday, July 18, 2024. Our scheduled time to meet is from 10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. in room 18.** You will be able to meet me, see our classroom, and drop off supplies.

**Please bring your child's supplies to school with you on the day of Open House.** (Our supply list is on the next page.) There will be areas for you to sort the supplies, as well as a few tasks for you to do to help your child get organized before the first day of school. If you are unavailable during our scheduled time, I will be available periodically throughout the day.

**Our first day of school is Tuesday, July 23rd. Full Day starts at 8:00 a.m. However, the students should be outside and in line by 7:55 a.m. Your child must be prompt and present the full first day to be considered enrolled at EDUPRIZE. The full day schedule this year is from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday – Thursday and 8:00 a.m. - 11:15 p.m. on Fridays.**

I look forward to meeting you and your family! If you have any questions or concerns about the school year, please do not hesitate to contact me. The best way to reach me is through email. My email address is [kayla.cortez@eduprizeschools.net](mailto:kayla.cortez@eduprizeschools.net). I look forward to our partnership. Thank you in advance for all you will do to make this a wonderful school year for your child!

Thank you,  
Mrs. Cortez



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Please bring the following school supplies to the Open House on Thursday, July 18, 2024 anytime between 10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. in room 18. This will allow me to store the supplies and have a smooth start on the first day of school. Some items will be used as a classroom set, so **please do not write your child's name on the supplies unless it is indicated.** Thank you very much for contributing to our classroom!

- Unpackaged Headphones in a large Ziploc bag (**Earbuds are very difficult for first graders to use. Please send in headphones only.**)
- 1 regular-sized pencil box. (**Please write your child's name on it.**)
- 1 pointed pair of unpackaged scissors. (**Please write your child's name on them.**)
- 2 boxes of Crayola Crayons 24 pack
- 1 box of sharpened pencils
- 2 erasers
- 1 red, **plastic** pocket folder **with metal fasteners** (homework folder)
- 1 yellow, **plastic** pocket folder **with metal fasteners**
- 1 blue, **plastic** pocket folder **with metal fasteners**
- Composition notebook
- 10 glue sticks
- 2 packages of black, thin Expo white board markers
- 1 package of sheet protectors (**Heavy duty**)
- 2 packages of copy paper (**white**)
- 1 roll of paper towels
- 2 containers of Clorox antibacterial wipes for cleaning desks
- 2 small bottles of hand soap
- Tissue Boxes (square boxes)

Teacher Wish List

Click [here](#) for our class Wishlist.

